

# 15 Named To Various City Boards

Fifteen persons were named to posts on city boards and commissions last night by the Oakland City Council.

New appointees, and the commissions to which they were appointed, are:

Allan R. Johannes and Don Durant, both to the planning commission; Ralph Yanello, Dallas Cason and Dan Patterson Jr., all to the civil service commission; Seymour Bachman to the housing advisory and appeals board; Morris Henson and Julie Carville to the housing authority; John Maddex to the off-street parking commission; and Aldo Nelson to the parks and recreation commission.

Reappointed to second terms were Clyde Gibb, planning commission; Earle H. Fletcher, housing authority; Fred Ernst and Jim Ellis, off-street parking commission.

Carl Mak was moved from the planning commission to the civil service commission.

# Nelson bids adieu

**A**SK ALDO NELSON what he does for a living and he laughs before giving his modest answer.

"I just make out schedules and line up buses," he says.

On some days it may appear that schedule-making and bus-assigning is all Nelson does, but the director of the Oakland Athletic League and consultant for physical education in the Oakland public school district has done much more than that.

On Dec. 29, Nelson will leave his familiar East 10th Street office and the position he has held 13 years. At age 57, Nelson is retiring to go into the insurance business. He will still make his rounds to high schools but on a much broader basis. Instead of working only in Oakland schools, he will work throughout Northern California, selling insurance to high school athletes.

"I'll certainly miss all the events in Oakland," Nelson says, "but I didn't feel this (insurance) opportunity will come along again, so I have to take advantage of it."

Nelson, the man with the pastoral face and comforting manner that reminds one of a parish priest, or better yet, Santa Claus, has been part of the Oakland public school district for 32½ years. An Oakland native son (Allendale Elementary, Hamilton Jr. High, Fremont High and Cal), Nelson began his career as a teacher at Cleveland Elementary School, went on to McChesney Jr. High and then was asked to fill in for an ailing Harold Baldwin as director of physical education for the district.

He's been "filling in" ever since.

Upon Marcus Foster's arrival as Oakland school superintendent in 1970, numerous shake-ups occurred. Once responsible for all the P.E. programs and athletics in the school district, Nelson's duties were relegated to junior high and senior high P.E. programs and boys' high school athletics.

But Nelson, undaunted, continued to organize and implement programs. He helped initiate the McClymonds Christmas Basketball Tournament, now in its 14th year, helped start the OAL Cross-Country Invitational Meet, now in its ninth year, and assisted in Oakland Tech Easter Baseball Tournament, which has been going on for 11 years.

**D**URING HIS 32½ YEARS, Nelson has achieved much, but would still like to see much more achieved. For instance, the refurbished Oakland High and the new Tech gym are improvements, but Fremont High still needs more gym space and Castlemont's gym is in pitiful shape, Nelson says.

But the most satisfying experience — more than witnessing an avalanche of Tournament of Champions basketball titles for OAL teams, more than hosting the first state basketball tournament in Oakland, more than anything — is watching the Oakland athletes achieve, says Nelson.

"Seeing certain youngsters who have played well and gone on to other things is the most fun," Nelson said. "It was fun to see Theotis Brown, Rickey Henderson, Rudy May, Joe Morgan be very successful. Of course, I'm not saying that I'm responsible because they were outstanding

people and they were going to be good no matter what. But it was fun to see them achieve."

Nelson thinks that some of the best athletes come out of the OAL and that sometimes those athletes are overlooked.

"Take Rickey Henderson," Nelson pointed out. "He was a marvelous baseball player but was an even more marvelous football player and he wasn't a bad basketball player. I thought when he graduated from Tech that he was the most underrated athlete in the Eastbay. But our youngsters go on to get the recognition in college and the pros."

When asked if his schedule-making, bus-hailing job has been rewarding, Nelson did not hesitate before answering.

"Very rewarding. This job has never been boring. Sometimes there have been too many things going on at once, but the job has never, ever been boring. Unfortunately, some people work at their jobs which are not interesting for the major part of their lives. I feel for those people."

# Nelson honored

The Oakland Public Schools will honor former Oakland Athletic League Commissioner Aldo Nelson with a testimonial dinner Wednesday.

The dinner will be held at the Alameda Naval Air Station at 7 p.m and is \$15 per person. There will be no host cocktails beginning at 6 p.m.

Nelson, who retired in December, served the Oakland Public Schools for 32 years as a teacher and administrator.

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# Nelson dinner tonight

ALAMEDA — Some 300 persons are expected to attend a testimonial dinner tonight at the Alameda Naval Air Station for Aldo Nelson, who has retired after 32 years of service with the Oakland public schools. He served as director of the Oakland Athletic League for 13½ years.

Mel Caughell, event chairman, will be master of ceremonies.

Cocktails are at 6 p.m. with dinner 7.



# Henderson the best, says OAL's ex-chief

By Ed Schoenfeld  
Tribune Staff Writer

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Over the past 32 years Aldo Nelson has watched a parade of athletic competitors pass through Oakland high schools ... great ones like John Brodie, Vada Pinson, Frank Robinson, Curt Flood, Jimmy Hines, McArthur Lane, James Robinson, Clark Miller, Chris Burford and Rickey Henderson.

Picking the best from that legion of superstars would be difficult, and it was for Nelson but after some coaxing he selected his No. 1

Rickey Henderson.

"A vastly underrated athlete in high school," Nelson said of Henderson, the current king of major league baseball base stealers, who came out of Oakland Tech High.

"Henderson didn't get nearly the recognition he deserved in high school."

Nelson, who served as the director of the Oakland Athletic League for 13½ years until his retirement in late December, described Henderson as a "very strong ... very fast ... great competitor ... with intense determination."

Henderson wasn't a one-sport star, either.

"Rickey was an outstanding baseball player, a very good football player, not a bad basketball player and he could have been a star in track but we had a league rule prohibiting an athlete from competing in two sports at the same time," Nelson said.

Some 300 people honored Nelson, 57, at a testimonial dinner Wednesday night at the Alameda Naval Air Station Officers Club.

"I saw so many great performances," Nelson said of his affiliation with the OAL for three decades plus. "It's difficult to recall them all but a few stand out in my memory."

Nelson looked back on the championship game of the 1963 Tournament of Champions in Harmon Gym at Cal. Berkeley High held a one-point lead over McClymonds with six seconds left in overtime.

"Mack inbounded the ball to Jim Tolliver," Nelson recalled. "He came

across midcourt, looked up at the clock, dribbled to the top of the key and hit a fallaway jumper. The place went absolutely wild."

Then there was the 1981 Oakland-Skyline football game, played in six-inches of mud at Skyline High.

"Dwight Garner ran like it was a dry field," he said. "He scored five touchdowns. Incredible."

Jimmy Hines, who went on from McClymonds to capture a gold medal in the 100 meters in the 1968 Olympic Games at Mexico City, gave Nelson a great thrill in the 220 around a curve during the 1964 OAL championships at Skyline.

"Hines was in Lane 1. The lanes were staggered, so he was the last one back," Nelson said. "When they reached the top of the curve, Hines had pulled up even. He took the lead and went on to win in :20.9. Fantastic."

Hines' time equalled the fastest high school 220 run on a curve that year in the country.

Nelson reflected on the changes in Oakland's prep sports over the past three decades.

"In the late 1930s-early 1940s, there were only four sports—football, basketball, baseball and track," he said. "Today there are 11 sports for boys and eight for girls."

"The girls program is a great stride from the old tea-and-cookies playdays. Now the girls are practicing and competing in many instances as hard as the boys. The number of participants and the caliber has improved considerably."

"Also, in spite of what the old timers might say, the kids today are bigger, stronger, faster, better prepared and better coached. Records keep falling."

But, Nelson is concerned about the impact Proposition 13 is making on the program.

"Budgets are being cut. Programs reduced," he said. "Unfortunately, there probably will be more coming. But, it's not new. There were cutbacks in past years. In 1968, there was a big community drive to raise \$100,000 to save our high school sports. I hope this doesn't re-occur."